



KNARESBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE  
Year Ended 31st December, 1938.

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Knaresborough :  
Knaresborough Printing Co.,  
1939.



# KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year Ended December 31st, 1938.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Knaresborough  
Urban District Council.*

KNARESBOROUGH.

July 6th, 1939.


LADIES, GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for your district for the year 1938. With this is incorporated the Sanitary Inspector's report.

I am Ladies, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. F. DOBSON, M.B., D.P.H.  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



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# ANNUAL REPORT.

Medical Officer of Health ... D. F. DOBSON, M.B., D.P.H.  
 Medical Officer to the Joint Isolation Hospital  
 G. C. ROBINSON, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I.  
 Sanitary Inspector ... .. E. PREST

## Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres) ... ..	2 488
Registrar-Gen's estimate of resident population, 1938	7,304
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938)...	2,219
Rateable Value ... ..	£49,957
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... .	£180

The area is mainly agricultural and residential.

There are a number of small industries in the town including a linen mill, an aerated water factory and shirt, gown and sports clothing factories.

Unemployment exists to a moderate extent.

The alteration in the Area has added certain Sanitary difficulties. The sewage disposal is in many cases unsatisfactory, particularly on Scotton Moor and Wetherby Road.

A few of the additional houses are unfit for habitation.

## Extracts from the vital statistics of the year.

		Totals		Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate, 93	96	56	40		Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.6
	Illegitimate, 3					
Still Births...	...	6	4	2		Rate per 1,000 of all births ... .. 58.8
Deaths	...	100	48	52		Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.2

The Death Rate corrected for purposes of comparison is 11.5

Deaths from diseases and accidents	from sepsis	...	nil
of pregnancy and child birth	...,, other causes	...	nil

Death rate from Puerperal Sepsis per 1,000 total births nil

Death rate from other Puerperal Causes

per 1,000 total births ... .. nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... .. 10.4

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... 10.7

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... .. 16

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... .. nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... .. nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... .. nil



The comparable death rate is slightly below that for England and Wales and is exceeded by the birth rate.

The largest individual causes of deaths were heart disease, cerebral hæmorrhage, and cancer.

There is no apparent evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

### **Section B.—Health Services for the Area.**

The Harrogate Infirmary continues to supply most of the Medical and Surgical treatment in cases requiring admission to Hospital.

The Bath Hospital, Harrogate, renders specialised treatment in cases of rheumatism and skin diseases.

The Joint Isolation Hospital on Forest Moor takes care of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and enteric fever, while a small Hospital on Killinghall Moor is always kept ready for the reception of cases of small pox.

Hospital provision for the area is regarded as adequate.

The Ambulance facilities are adequate and remain as before, the Ambulance maintained in Knaresborough being administered by a Joint Ambulance Committee of the Knaresborough Urban and Nidderdale Councils.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been opened in Knaresborough during the year.

### **Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

#### **Water.**

The supply of water from Harrogate has been excellent in quantity and quality; no analysis has been made or required by this Authority during the year.

#### **Drainage & Sewerage.**

Extensions of the Sewers to the Wayside Estate and the Housing Estate have taken place.

#### **Rivers & Streams.**

Considerable pollution of the river is occurring from the Sewage Works: the necessary alterations were undertaken during the year.

#### **Public Cleansing.**

The dry house refuse is collected in covered motor lorries and disposed of at the Council's tip.

### Factories and Workshops.

The factories and workshops were inspected 180 times ; 4 nuisances under the Public Health Acts were found and the necessary work is in hand.

### Sanitary Inspection of Area.

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only...	150
Number of nuisances found      ...      ...      ...      ...	47
Number of nuisances in hand at end of 1937    ....      ...	4
Number of nuisances abated during 1938      ...      ...	41
Number outstanding at end of 1938      ...      ...      ...	10
Number of informal notices served      ...      ...      ...	47
Number complied with      ...      ...      ...      ...	41
Formal notices      ....      ....      ....      ....      ....	<i>nil</i>

### Camping Sites.

The number of sites used for camping in 1938 was 4. Licences were issued by the Urban Council for 3 sites. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during 1938 was 300.

### Smoke Abatement.

Number of observations—4 ; cautions—3.

Number of legal notices—1 ; summonses—*nil*.

### Shops.

No legal action has been taken under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934. Informal action has been taken in some cases.

### Premises and Occupations Controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

Number of common lodging houses      ...      ...      ...	3
Number of inspections      . .      ...      ...      ..      ...	36

These are stone buildings, the ceilings rather low, but kept in clean satisfactory condition

Number of workshops—19, each inspected 8 times.

### Baths or Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in the area.

### **Eradication of Bed-Bugs.**

Number of Council Houses infested—1 ; disinfested—1.

Other houses infested—3 ; disinfested—3.

The methods employed are fumigation with “Cimex” and spraying with “Pyagra.”

Before removal to Council Houses, where necessary, the bedding is sterilized in a steam disinfecter, and the furniture sprayed and fumigated.

The houses are subsequently inspected and fumigated if required.

### **Schools.**

The sanitary condition, water supply, etc., of all schools is satisfactory. No school was closed for epidemic disease during 1938.

### **Section D.—Housing.**

51 Council Houses was erected during the year and progress was made in the demolition of condemned houses.

A large number (55) of houses were erected by private enterprise during the year.

The total number of houses in the district is now 2,269.

### **Housing Statistics.**

#### **I.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.**

1. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	10
2. Number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	10
3. Total number of inspections made	30
4. Number of dwelling houses needing further action	10
(a) Number unfit for human habitation	5
(b) Number not reasonably fit for human habitation	5

#### **II.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.**

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	2
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### III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936.

- |   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| (i.) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair    | ...    | 2          |
| (ii.) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices... | ...    | 2          |
| (a) By Owners   | ... .. | 2          |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners                                       | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |

#### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- |  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| (i.) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |
| (ii.) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice...        |        |            |
| (a) By Owners  | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners  | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |

#### C.—Proceedings under Sections 11—13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |   |        |    |
|---|--------|----|
| 1. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | 3  |
| 2. No. of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders             | ... .. | 34 |

#### D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |   |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
| 1. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were made  | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |
| 2. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |

### IV.—Overcrowding.

- |  |        |            |
|--|--------|------------|
| (a) 1. Number of houses found to be overcrowded at end of year   | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |
| 2. No. of families therein                                       | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |
| 3. No. of persons therein  | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... .. | <i>nil</i> |
| (c) 1. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year     | ... .. | 11         |
| 2. No. of persons concerned                                      | ... .. | 72         |
| (d) No case of overcrowding has occurred again after abatement.  |        |            |

## **Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

### **Milk.**

All cowsheds and dairies have been inspected regularly. The premises have been found in a very satisfactory condition. The cows are properly groomed and washed before milking, and all the milk has been produced under clean conditions. One licence was granted during the year for Grade A (T.T.) Milk.

### **Meat and Other Foods.**

Bakehouses have been kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

As previously reported, two slaughter-houses are old registered slaughter-houses in bad positions and surrounded by dwelling houses. All are kept clean.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned. No. killed—Cattle (excluding cows) 583; Calves, 20; Sheep and Lambs, 1510; Pigs, 1434.

Number Inspected—Cattle (excluding cows) 487; Calves, 20; Sheep and Lambs, 1258; Pigs, 1196.

All Diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned—Nil.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned—Nil. Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis—

Tuberculosis Only. Whole carcasses condemned—Cattle (cows excluded) 4.

Carcases of which some part or organs was condemned—Cattle (excluding cows) 6.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis—Cattle (excluding cows) 17%.

### **Nutrition.**

No educational work on the subject of nutrition has been undertaken by the Council.

## **Section F.—Infectious Disease.**

Scarlet Fever was very prevalent during the year.

No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Regulations, 1917.

Under arrangements made by the County Council a number of children were immunised against diphtheria by the Medical Officer of Health during the year. No case of diphtheria has occurred in the town of Knaresborough.

Four cases notified from Knaresborough proved, on admission to Hospital, not to be diphtheria.

The remaining four occurred at the Sanatorium, diphtheria bacilli occurred in all the four cases but only one had symptoms of diphtheria.

Dwelling-houses have been disinfected after cancer cases and on one or two occasions for vermin.

The usual rat week occurred during the year.

### Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	15	15	—
Diphtheria ...	8	8	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	—	—
Other Diseases generally notifiable			
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	—
Other Diseases locally notifiable ...	<i>nul</i>		

### Analysis of Cases under Age Groups.

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis
0	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-3	1	—	—	—	—	—
3-4	1	2	—	—	—	—
4-5	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	4	2	—	—	—	2
10-15	4	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-35	4	2	4	—	1	—
35-45	—	2	—	—	1	—
45-65	—	—	—	4	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	8	4	4	2	2

## Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, with reference to blindness.

## Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.		PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
20	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
65 and upwards	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...
TOTALS	1	1	1	1	5	...	...	...

60% only of the deaths from tuberculosis were in notified cases, but notification in the area is usually efficient.

*D. F. DOBSON, M.B., D.P.H.,*

*The Medical Officer of Health for the  
Urban District of Knaresborough.*

*July, 1939.*









